

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR,SOPN,IN

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF MINISTER SHUKLA'S WARNING TO
FOREIGN NEWSMEN

BEGIN SUMMARY: INDIAN PRESS TODAY EXTENSIVELY REPORTED,
MOSTLY ON FRONT PAGE, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER
V.C. SHUKLA'S WARNING TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO ABIDE BY
THE LAWS OF THE LAND. ANOTHER STORY PROMINENTLY COVERED
HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GOI WOULD MOVE "CAUTIOUSLY" IN
DELINKING PRESS FROM INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS HOUSES. END
SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER SHUKLA'S PARLIAMENT WARNING TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN
TO OBEY THE INDIAN LAWS OR QUIT WAS COVERED UNDER THESE
TYPICAL HEADINGS: "FOREIGN NEWSMEN TOLD TO RESPECT INDIAN
LAWS" (INDIAN EXPRESS) AND "OBEY LAW OR QUIT, FOREIGN
NEWSMEN TOLD "(NATIONAL HERALD).

2. EXPHASES IN NEWS TREATMENT QUOTED THE MINISTER
SAYING, " ANYBODY WHO DOES NOT ACCEPT THESE LAWS OR DOES
NOT WANT TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THESE LAWS IS
WELCOME TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY."

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3. THE MINISTER TOLD THE PARLIAMENT THAT THE GOI HAD TO

TAKE "STERN" MEASURES AGAINST SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WESTERN PRESS WHO DID NOT ACCEPT THE INDIAN LAWS.

(NATIONAL HERALD SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WROTE THE MINISTER "USED THE TERM-- WESTERN PRESS-- TO INCLUDE ONLY THREE OR FOUR COUNTRIES." REPORTAGE DID NOT MENTION THESE COUNTRIES.) HOWEVER, MOST FOREIGN NEWSMEN, PARTICULARLY FROM SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING NATIONS, HAD SHOWN "UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION" OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN INDIA, THE MINISTER ADDED.

4. TREATMENT HIGHLIGHTED SHUKLA'S HOPE THAT THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS IN NEW DELHI IN JULY WOULD "SUCCEED" IN CREATING A NEWS POOL, WHICH WOULD PROJECT THE "TRUE" HAPPENINGS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND END THE "INSIDIOUS" EXPLOITATION OF THE SITUATION BY "CERTAIN NEWS AGENCIES OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD."

5. OTHER POINTS THE MINISTER MADE, INCLUDED HIS AFFIRMATION THAT "FIRM" FOUNDATION FOR THE GROWTH OF A "HEALTHY AND RESPONSIBLE" INDIAN PRESS HAD BEEN LAID DURING THE EMERGENCY AND THOSE WHO OBEYED THE LAW AND OBSERVED THE CODE OF ETHICS EVOLVED BY EDITORS HAD NOTHING TO FEAR. THIS WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT IN FUTURE "THERE IS NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN A LEGALLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND SECTIONS OF THE PRESS," SHUKLA ADDED.

6. PRESS COVERAGE ALSO PROMINENTLY PLAYED THE INFORMATION MINISTER'S STATEMENT AT THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MOVE "CAUTIOUSLY" IN PRESS DELINKING. TYPICAL HEADLINES: "GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE 'CAUTIOUSLY' IN PRESS DELINKING" (INDIAN EXPRESS) AND "GOVERNMENT FOR 'DIALOGUE' ON DELINKING OF PRESS" (HINDUSTAN TIMES).

7. STORY LEADS STRESSED THAT THE MINISTER TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN DELINKING OF THE PRESS FROM MONOPOLY HOUSES, IT WOULD LIKE TO MOVE IN THE MATTER "CAUTIOUSLY." IT WAS NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF VARIOUS GROUPS BEFORE TAKING ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AND ALSO CONSIDER VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SELECTING THE "MOST PRACTICAL AND SATISFACTORY" ONE.SAXBE

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